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TEAMSTER CANDIDATES TO DEBATE
PURSUANT TO NEW, COURT-APPROVED ELECTION RULE

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that a debate will be held on Friday, August 25, 2006, between candidates for the office of General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, pursuant to a new election rule developed for this Teamsters election cycle by the United States Government and the Teamsters Union, and approved by United States District Judge LORETTA A. PRESKA. The debate will take place at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

The 2006 Teamsters election will be the fourth direct, rank-and-file vote for the Union's top officers held under the 1989 Consent Decree that resolved the United State Government's historic civil racketeering lawsuit against the Teamsters Union, which was designed to rid the Union of organized crime and corruption and establish a culture of democracy. The 1.4 million members of the Teamsters Union will directly elect their General President and other International Union officers this fall by mail ballot.

The 2006 Teamsters election is being conducted pursuant to rules agreed upon by the United States Government and the Teamsters Union and approved by District Judge PRESKA. On December 6, 2005, Judge PRESKA approved a new election rule for this election cycle mandating a candidate debate for the office of General President and requiring that a recording of the debate be broadly disseminated to the Teamster membership. The new rule for the first time obligates the candidates for the office of General President, or their designees, to appear at this candidate forum.

On August 23, 2006, Judge PRESKA upheld a plan by the Election Supervisor, Richard W. Mark, to distribute the recording of the debate to the Teamster electorate. In her decision, Judge PRESKA recognized the "critical importance of fostering a culture of democracy within this Union."

According to Election Supervisor Mark, the competing campaigns for the office of General President of the Teamsters Union will be represented at the debate by Tom Leedham, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local Union 206 in Portland, Oregon, a candidate for General President; and by C. Thomas Keegel, the current General-Secretary Treasurer of the Teamsters Union, who was designated under the rules to appear in the place of current Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa.

Assistant United States Attorneys ANDREW W. SCHILLING, BETH E. GOLDMAN, and DANNA DRORI are in charge of the Government's enforcement of the Consent Decree between the Government and the Teamsters Union.

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